

REMARKS

Claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 10, 12 and 13 are canceled. Claims 14-15 are new.

Accordingly, claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 9, 11 and 14-15 are pending as presented herein.

For clarity, Applicant wishes to point out that, as presented herein:

- a. Claim 1 combines the limitations of former claims 1 and 7.
- b. Claim 8 combines the limitations of former claims 8 and 12.
- c. Claim 14 combines the limitations of former claims 1, 5 and 7.
- d. Claim 15 combines the recitations of former claims 8, 10 and 12.

As previously presented, the claims were variously rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Tsuboi *et al.* U.S. Patent No. 6,063,393 and/or Bonora U.S. Patent No. 5,948,836. No rejection was stated for previous claims 5, 7 and 12.

As amended herein, independent claims 1¹ and 8² have been amended to additionally recite the proportion of the fibrous inorganic material, that is, to add the limitations of claims 7 and 12, respectively.

As appears to have been recognized but unstated in the Office Action, neither Tsuboi *et al.* nor Bonora teach what is now recited in claims 1 and 8. Specifically, neither teach (C) a chemical agent having a pesticidal property in which the (D) fibrous inorganic filler are essential components. Moreover, both references are silent about the provision of a proportion of the fibrous inorganic filler which is limited so as to provide for sustained release of the (C) chemical agent.

Accordingly, both independent claims 1 and 8 are allowable over the prior art.

¹Please note that in the Preliminary Amendment dated December 7, 2006, claim 1 was erroneously reproduced to recite part (C) as reading:

a chemical agent having a pesticidal property selected from the group consisting of chloronicotinyl insecticides, carbamate compounds, compounds exhibiting pest growth control activity, and miticides

This inadvertently left out "pyrethroid compounds", and it should have read, based on the prior (May 16, 2006) Amendment from which this part of the claim was unchanged, as follows:

a chemical agent having a pesticidal property selected from the group consisting of chloronicotinyl insecticides, carbamate compounds, *pyrethroid compounds*, compounds exhibiting pest growth control activity, and miticides

As presented herein, claim 1 includes "pyrethroid compounds" in its part (C).

²Please also note that claim 8 as presently presented includes "carboxylic acid amides" in its part (B) as presented in the May 16, 2006 Amendment but inadvertently left out of the claim as set forth in the December 2006 Preliminary Amendment.

The spelling of "proparthrin" (correctly spelled when claim 8 was originally filed) has also been corrected from the "propathrin" misspelling in the previous presentation.

Claims 6 and 11 have also been amended herein to still further limit those claims, reciting a more limited the “type” of fibrous inorganic filler than taught or suggested (whether explicitly or implicitly) in Tsuboi *et al.* and Bonora. Specifically, “silica fiber” has been removed from both claims, thereby clearly distinguishing from the “glass fibers” which the Office Action notes in Bonora. Thus, claims 6 and 11 are submitted to be allowable over the prior for this reason, as well as the reasons already noted with respect to their base claim nos. 1 and 8.

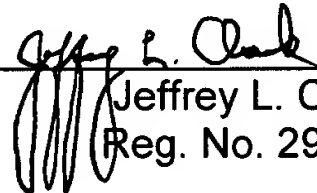
Finally, new claims 14 and 15 combine former claims 1, 5 and 7 and former claims 8, 10 and 12, respectively. These claims thus recite not only the structure of previous independent claims 1 and 8, but also limit the “shape” of the fibrous inorganic filler (as previously recited in claims 5 and 10) as well as the “proportion” of the fibrous inorganic filler (as previously recited in claims 7 and 12). These claims have been presented per the suggestion of the Examiner in the April 27, 2007 telephone conference with the undersigned, at which time the Examiner indicated the probable allowability of such claims. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesy of his time in that telephone conference.

In view of the above, all of pending claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 9, 11 and 14-15 are believed to be allowable. Early notification to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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